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UNITED STATES NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL



RESEARCH

AN ANALYSIS OF POPULATION PROBLEMS
AS THEY AFFECT ECONOMIC GROWTH IN
SELECTED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Gerald B. Griffin

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Submitted in parital fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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AN ANALYSIS OF POPULATION PROBLEMS AS THEY AFFECT ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SELECTED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

bу

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IN

MANAGEMENT

from the

United States Naval Postgraduate School

Department of Business Administration and Economics

Approved:

FREDRACT

In an ere of unproved their population expansion, economically underdeveloped countries have the seemingly insuperable task of raising their standard of living while trying to stay abreast of astonishing increases in population. Simply stated, the problem of economic development in these countries is to increase production at a rate in excess of man's repr duction.

This study was made to learn in what manner the demographic variables of least no relation size, rate of population growth, and composition of the population influence economic variables, particularly in Latin American areas, where population growth in certain countries is the highest of the major cultural regions of the world.

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITIONS OF TLRMS USED

I. THE PROBLEM

Since primitive times man has been able to increase his production of food and other necessities sufficiently to allow an character expansion of his numbers. At times, production has increased much faster than populations have grown; in fact, the advance of civilization has depended upon man's ability to expand production so that an excess was created beyond that minimum necessary for the maintenance of a growing population. However, it has been only in certain parts of the earth and during certain periods of time that production has kept ahead of man's reproduction and the level of living for people has been raised.

This problem has become especially acute during recent decades. Modern preventive medicines have reduced the death rates of many parts of the world while high rates of birth have continued. Economically underdeveloped countries have the seemingly insuperable economic task of raising their standard of living while trying to stay abreast the astounding increases in population. Simply stated, the problem of economic development in these coun-

United Nations, The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends: Population Studies, No. 17 (New York: United Nations, 1963), p. 181.

tries is to increase production at a rate in excess of the rate of population growth.

Observers are often impressed with the fact that certain countries in Latin America have the highest rates of population increases of the major cultural areas of the world. At the same time, these countries are faced with the fact that most of their peoples live in conditions of abject poverty.

will seek to discover, first, if any meaningful correlation between recent series of demographic statistics and recent series of economic statistics can be established for selected countries in Latin America. Secondly, influences of population variables on economic variables in general will be investigated. Thirdly, using a bisectoral economic development or growth model constructed by W. A. Lewis, an attempt will be made to predict if these countries will reach a state of economic development where they are self-sustaining and from which rapid

^{2&}quot;Facts and Rigures," Americas, XVI (July, 1964), p. 46. The rate of natural increase in many countries in Latin America is nearly thirty per thousand, a rate which is maintain and double the population in less than the transfer.

progress is possible.3

The demographic variables to be investigated are:
(1) total population; (2) rate of population growth; and
(3) composition of the population. These variables are those often cited as exerting the most influence on economic variables.

Theoretical background: Population theory crosses the lines of many disciplines including geography, sociology, anthropology, economic, ecology, even genetics and medicine which have investigated methods of birth control and developed many preventive medicines.

Economists are concerned with population factors as they iffect the ability of the economic system of a country to satisfy human wants. The number of people to be supplied directly conditions the success of an economic system to produce the goods and services necessary. One of the essential factors of production is labor which is directly influenced by population factors. Not only are the numbers of the labor force important, but also their

See page 2, for a more detailed see see

A. J. Coale and E. M. Hoover, <u>Population Growth</u> and <u>Economic Development in Low-Income Countries</u> (Prince ton New Jersey: <u>Princeton University Press, 1958</u>), p. 18; P. M. Hauser and O. T. Duncan, <u>The Study of Population An Inventory and Appraisal</u> (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1950), p. 804.

age, sex, and the skills they possess; important also is the ratio of other factors of production available for combining with the labor force.

Economist's interest in the role of population grew greatly as a result of the publication of Malthus'

Essay On Population at the end of the eighteenth century.

This essay aroused a storm of controversy that still continues, and made the need for adequate empirical information apparent, if theories were to be tested.

During much of the executive the contury, economists pard relatively little attention to population phenomena, treating it as only one of many inter-dependent variables which interact within the matrix of variables that comprise an economy.

More recently, economists have renewed their interest in population as a factor important in economic development, particularly in less advance cultures.

ables on economic variables have not ben wide-spread, at least in underdeveloped countries for two reasons. First, reliable economic and demographic data from underdeveloped nation has been generally hard to come by. Secondly, population variables are only one of the many at work within

⁵T. H. Malthus, Essay On Population, ed. Gertrude Himmelfarb (New York: The Modern Library, 1960).

an economy and knowledge of the effects of changes is not well known.

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II. DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

Demography. There is no single standard of what demography is even among demographic experts; the definition varies from time to time and place to place. For purposes of this paper, the following definition is given: Demography is the science which deals with the statistics of human population such as size, density, growth, distribution, the changes therein, and the components of such changes.

Gross national product. A term used by the United Nations when speaking of national accounting aggregates which is defined as:

visions for consumption of fixed capital, attributable to the factors of production supplied by normal residents of the given country. It is identically equal to the sum of consumption expenditures and gross domestic capital formation, private and public, and the net export of goods and services plus the net factor incomes received from abroad.

National income. As defined by the United Nations,

Gunited Nations, Yearbook of National Account Statistics 1963 (New York: United Nations, 1964), p. xi.

"National income is the sum of incomes accuring to factors of production supplied by normal residents of a given country before deduction of direct taxes."

Population. Population as a concept refers to the actual aggregations of humans, and is a far wider concept than demography. Population studies are concerned not only with population variables, but also with the relationships between population changes and other variables — social, political, economic, biological, genetic and so on.

Underdeveloped country. This term is used by the United Nations to replace "backward country", or one whose economy is not well advanced, who lacks sufficient industrailization, market structure and economic institutions to provide an adequate standard of living for its people.

 $7_{\mathtt{Ibid}}$.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Standards of selection. Because population theory touches or overlaps many disciplines, any effort to review completely all literature bearing on population problems would be a staggering task. In order to reduce the task to managable proportions, review was limited largely to the literature of demography and that area of economics concerned with problems caused by population growth. The portion of economics which is concerned with economic problems in underdeveloped countries and particularly the problems of economic growth in these countries received stress.

One further standard of selection was necessary in order to limit the literature reviewed to acceptable amounts. With one or two exceptions made necessary by their extreme importance to the subject, only that written within the last twenty years was included.

The sources searched. The sources were limited to those found in the library at the United States Naval Post-graduate School, Monterey, California. Information from various United Nations publications and the American Economic Review were particularly useful.

General statement. The points of convergence between economics and demography may be indicated in terms of demographic variables, changes in which may affect economthat the two sets of ic variables. It is variables may be complexly interrelated; (2) that the relation between economic and demographic variables may be by the presence or absence of other non-identified variables: (3) that short-run effects of demographic or economic change may differ from long-run effective and (4) while it may not be difficult to determine the direction of economic effect accompanying some change in population, it frequently is not easy to determine the magnitude of such an effect. 1 These problems are listed to indicate that study of relationships between these two subjects is not an easy task. One further difficult which should be mentioned is that empirical information concerning the impact of demographic change upon economic change is not pleutiful. There is, of course, considerable information on wage and income movements and structures, levels of employment, variation in savings and investment, but this data does not readily permit analysis of population effects on economic change. Ac-

l Douglas S. Paauw, "Some Frontiers of Empirical Research in Economic Development," Economic Development and Cultural Change, IX (January, 1961), pp. 180-190:

quiring either economic or demographic data for use in the study of many underdeveloped countries is especially difficult because facilities generally do not exist (or have existed for a short time only) for collection of such information.

while theoretically many demographic variables are viewed as exerting an influence on economic variables, empirical studies in specific areas of the world have been forced to greatly simplify the number of variables both demographic and economic that can be used.²

The three demographic variables generally studied are total population, rate of population growth, and composition of population.³

Total population. Many economists and demographers subscribe to the theory of ontimum population which holds that for a given country and under given conditions, a certain size total population enables the greatest per carita income possible to be realized. The relationship that is said to exist between total population and per capits income can be shown graphically as in Figure 1.

²Ibid.

A. J. Coale and E. M. Hoover, <u>Population Growth</u>
and <u>Economic Development in Low-Income Countries</u> (Princeton, New Jersey; Princeton University Press, 1958), 18.

vertical relates to average income (Y). The curve YP depicts the dependence of the economic variable, income, on the demographic variable, population. Point P₁, at which per capita income is maximum represents the optimum population. Population beyond P₁ indicates overcrowded conditions; at values smaller that P₁, the economy is said to be under-populated.

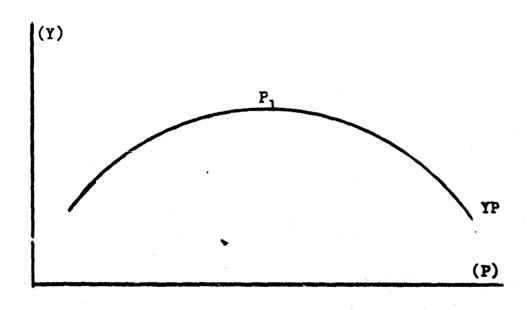


FIGURE 1
RELATIONSHIP OF INCOME TO POPULATION

ropulation size is thought to influence economic variables through the returns to scale principle. Speaking on economies of scale, United Nations writers have said.

The improvements in economic organization to which an increase in the size or density of population may lead are of two types: (a) extension of the division of labour, and (b) adoption of more efficient scales of production. Each of these influences result in economies of production, and hence increases output per unit of cost.

A few paragraphs later is stated,

The size and density of population necessary to permit maximum economies of scale must be considered not only with regard to what is needed to provide a sufficiently large market for a single firm or other economic unit, but also with regard to the number of units engaged in each type of economic activity and their interrelations with one another.

To the left of point P₁ on the YP curve in Figure 2, economies of scale serve to increase per capita income as population increases. To the right of this point diseconomies of scale come into operation.

Many writers in discussing the effects of total population on the economy speak not only of the economies of scale, but also of diminishing returns at the same time. Since by definition both do not occur together, it is assumed that diseconomies of scale are meant rather than diminishing returns.

Of Population Trends, p. 229.

⁷<u>Ibid</u>., p. 230.

Quoting from United Nations writers again,

The productivity of human labour absends, other conditions being given, upon the ancunt of resources in use at its disposal. More specifically, physical output per worker per time period in any employment is governed mainly by the amount of resources and equipment used. Consequently, if all things remained equal, the grawth of population and the labour force would tend to reduce per capita output by reducing the amount of resources and equipment per worker involved in production. This principle is the main foundation of the thesis which has been expressed since the days of Malthus and even earlier, that population growth tends to reduce the level of living or else check its rise. Its simplest illustration is in the so called "law of diminishing returns" as applied to agricultural labour and land. Given a certain that of land which can be cultivated and assuming the methods and equipment to be constant, an increase in the number of units of labour employed beyond a certain point brings reduction in the product per unit labour.

. Spengler writing on the relationships between population and economics said essentially the same,

Within limits, increase in T /total population may operate to increase y /per capita income? (given as constants all conditions except those affected by increases in T) and thereafter serve to reduce y. For up to a point increases in T give rise to improvements in organization and other soucres of increasing return, and these improvements more than offset such adverse effects as eventually accompany decreases in the amount of land and other resources available per head. Eventually, the decline in 1 Tand and other resources per capital constitutes a drag on the upward movement of y. . . . further increases in T operate to make y lower than it otherwise would have been, and this tendency is accentuated when population growth serves to slow down the

Ibid., p. 224.

rate ut which carital per head is formed 9

Critics of this theory have indicated that the optimum population concept, while providing a convenient framework for theorizing, is subject to so many limitations and uncertainties as to be of limited use as an analytic tool. The question of whether a given population is smaller or larger than one yielding maximum per capita income is very difficult to answer in any given situation. The difficulty lies in trying to quantify various indices of over-population or under-population. Examples of indices that have been suggested include: (1) migration; (2) the pattern of consumption; (3) the amount of unemployment; (4) the length of life; (5) the presence or absence of "diminishing returns"; (6) the terms of international trade; (7) the density of population measured in various ways. 10

While it is true that many countries do not possess adequate land or other natural resources, in general, the factor of production most often leading to eco-

⁹J. J. Spengler, The Study of Population An Inventory and Appraisal, ed. P. M. Hauser and O. D. Duncan (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1959), p. 805.

Of Population Trends, p. 235.

nomic growth problems in Latin America is not land, but limited quantities of capital available relative to the size of the labor force.

Increases in total population may affect the distribution of income. If, in fact, growing population does slow soom the rate at which capital per head can be formed and reduces the value of resources available per capita, and labor become more plentiful, compared with other factors, then the rate at which the human agent is productive and renumerated compared with the rate at which capital and land are productive and renumerated, becomes lower. This, of course, will depend on the elasticity of the substitution of labor. Elasticity, in turn, will depend on the technical conditions of productivity, and the substitutability of labor for other factors. The assumption is generally made, however, that labor will comparatively receive less compensation.

Increases in total population may affect the level of employment is a given country if the proportions with which capital and labor can be combined are not sufficiently variable. This condition is likely to occur in underdeveloped countries where technological change and redistribution of workers among employments does not occur

remidly enough to permit all increases in the labor force to be eccabined properly, if at all, with other productive factors. 11

It is possible that increase in total population will cause an increase in consumption at the expense of saving, if per capita income falls. The ratio of savings to national income would therefore decline. Composition of consumption could also be expected to change in this case as shifts were made to cheaper commodities and inferior goods.

Rate of population growth. The second factor that must be considered in analyzing the effects of population variables on economic variables is rate of population growth.

The most significant feature of population growth rate is that high rates of growth require higher levels of needed investment if per capita income is to be maintained, yet there is nothing about faster growth that generates a greater supply of investible resources.

All underdeveloped countries lack an adequate supply

¹¹ Masao Fukuoka, "Full Employment and Constant Coeffecients of Production," Quarterly Journal of Economics, LXIX, pp. 23-44.

of equipment and other means of productivity which are of good quality. This fact coupled with the generally low productivity of labor and low per capita income makes it extremely difficult to form capital at a sufficient rate. Quoting United Nations experts, "It is as if the hoe were asked to produce enough to feed its owner and also leave a surplus for purchase of a tractor". 12

"demographic" investments, which are necessary to support the growing population, and "economic" investments which raise the standard of living. It is obvious that the size of the demographic investment depends directly on the rate of population increase. In underdeveloped nations, it is feared by experts that demographic investments may use up all available capital, thus retarding economic development indefinitely. To provide the capital for a two and one-half percent annual population increase, United Nations experts have estimated that up to twelve and one-half percent of national income is required for demographic investment if per capita income

¹²United Nation, The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends, p. 278.

In Measures For Economic Development In Maderdeveloped Countries (New York: United Nations, 1951), p. 47.

is to be maintained, with no rise in standard of living. 14

Because the typical age structure in underdeveloped countries generally places a heavy burden of dependency on each family, the possibilities of saving are further reduced as the entire income is absorbed.

Efforts are often made to secure foreign capital, but some economists have rejected the idea that foreign loans can compensate fully for major deficiencies in domestic rate of saving for these reasons: (1) a nation can obtain large amounts of capital only if its internal economic conditions are favorably inclined, and such is not likely to be the case when low per capita incomedist creating social disorganization and political instability. (2) because a complementary relationship exists between different kinds of capital at different stages in a country's development, a nation's internal rate of capital formation determines, in part, the amount of capital from abroad which can economically be absorbed at any one time, even when easy credit terms are to be had; (3) the underdeveloped nation must repay the loan within a reasonable time, out of savings, if it is to avoid excess debt and maintain a good cretit rating. 15

¹⁴ Ibid.

Development (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961), p. 258.

Many authorities, therefore, consider the rate of population growth to be the demographic variable most responsible for limiting economic growth in underdeveloped countries. 16

Composition of population. The third factor which enters into an analysis of the effect. It population change on economic variables is composition of the population that age, sex, and qualitatively.

One of the chief obstacles to economic development is the manpower shortage which exists even in the so-called over-populated countries. The reduction of the ity, paricularly among children, coupled with a persent tently high birth rate causes the ratio of persons who are in a dependent status because of their age (either too young, or too old to work) to persons eligible for productive work to be relatively high. In short, economies with high birth rates must "waste" more of their productive substance on non-productive persons than would be required if a lower birth rate existed.

Changes in age composition, other factors being given, are usually associated with changes in per capita

¹⁶J. J. Spengler, "The Population Obstacle to Human Betterment," American Economic Review, XLI No. 2 (Nay, 1951), p. 352; S. Enke, Economics For Development (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1963), p. 370.

income, per capita capital, and savings, each of which tends to vary positively with the ratio of the labor force to population. 17

Qualitative factors of the productive members of a population also bear on output. Worker's health, for example, affects directly the number of workers as well as the carabilities of workers. Poor health is emphasized as a major cause of low productivity of a labor force, particularly in underdeveloped countries. 18

Lack of vocational skills and aptitudes contributes to low productivity. This becomes most apparent as workers move from rural, agricultural vocations to jobs employing new equipments and methods. In the long run, the development of a well qualified labor force requires a certain minimum of fundamental education for the mass population as well as institutions for higher learning and for research.

Population composition by sex is important in the short run as the numbers of productive members of a population are influenced. Female members generally are considered to be not as economically productive as male members. However, since major divergencies from the nor-

^{17%.} Derfere, "Tecuesia Indication." on 634-679.

United Nations, The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends, p. 266.

mal sex composition of a population are transitory, in the long run, sex composition is not economically important.

Bi model. Population theory as it affects economic rowth is only one part of the overall theory needed to build a useful economic model. Cther factors requiring consideration in constructing a satisfactory growth or development model include the state of the technology, accumulation of capital, dualism of the economy, consumption, foreign trade, and government developmental plans, among others. 19 Of the factors listed, population growth, capital accumulation, and technology are viewed by many economists as being of major importance and hence are intensively studied.

Lack of an adequate supply of capital equipment and other means of production are characteristic of all underdeveloped countries. 20 Yet, capital is urgently needed to combine with other productive factors if output per capita is to be increased. Technological aspects are important in that they permit wast increases in output per capita and have been responsible for much of

¹⁹ spie op 1 set., pp. 187-188

²⁰Ibid., p. 168.

man's economic development, particularly in recent centuries.

As the result of renewed interest in economic development theory, economists have attempted for at least a decade and a half to formulate a satisfactory growth model which when applied to underdeveloped economies would permit useful decisions as to needs and subsequent allocations of capital investments. 21

Although criticized by some, the work of W. Arthur Lewis is said by many economists to hold promise in providing a more satisfactory, more useful model for underdeveloped countries.²²

Lewis argues that the problem of capital accumulation in economically backward countries is further complicated by the existence of two economic sectors.

The subsistence sector which is largely agricultural in nature is one in which output is shared by each family among its members. The "wage" in this sector is sometimes said to be average product and sometimes viewed as output per head. In either case, it is extremely low --- at the subsistence level -- because labor has wary little capital investment to assist productivity. Saving, of course, is regligible.

²¹G. Ranis, "The Population Problem," American Economic Review, LIII No. 2 (May, 1963), p. 622.

²²W. A. Lewis, "Development With Unlimited Supplies of Labour," T Manchester School, 1954.

In the adjoining capitalistic sector, usually industrial in nature although commercial agriculture may be included, there is enough investment from either savings or foreign loans to give each member a minimum investment which helps him achieve a considerably higher output when compared with the output for workers in the subsistence sector. However, labor in the capitalistic sector will not receive the wages equal to their marginal productivity. Instead, all additional output is returned to the capitalist rather than distributed as wages because an "unlimited" competitive supply of labor is available from the subsistence sector to replace the industrial worker, should he demand higher wages.

This can be seen in Figure 2, page 23, where the wage rate is shown on the vertical axis and the supply of labor is depicted on the Moly Dottal axis. The parginal-Product of Labor Force is the demand curve for all employers. In a market where the supply of labor is fixed, as at L₁, an employer would pay a wage to all his employees equal to the marginal-product of the last man hired, retaining for himself that quantity of the marginal-product produced in excess of the wage level by all previously hired workers. The return to the employer is depicted as the area beneath the Marginal-Product-of-Labor Curve, but above the wage level (W₁) that he must pay in order to attract workers.

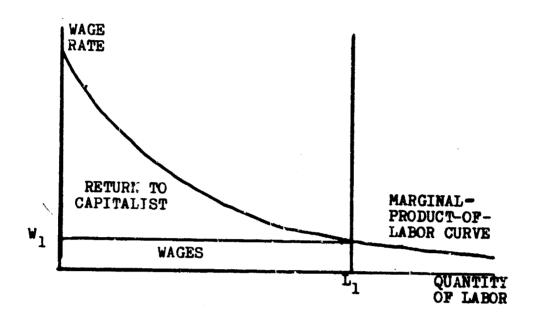


FIGURE 2
MARGINAL-PRODUCT OF LABOR

In the Lewis model, however, the supply of labor is funlimited", so the employer need only pay a wage high enough above the average "wage" in the subsistence sector to draw workers into the industrial sector, retaining for himself all the productivity of each worker above the wige he must pay. Worker productivity increases in the capitalistic sector because each now has some capital to aid his output. A worker cannot demand wages equal to his marginal-productivity because there is an "inexhaustable" supply of workers waiting to replace him.

The problem seen facing such an economy is that of

smoothly moving surplus agricultural labor to more productive employment in the industrial sector.

The foregoing describes what is called the first phase of a country's development which will continue as long as incomes in the agricultural sector remain at the subsistence level. Capital and technology become important as twin forces which determine the rate of labor reallocation from the subsistence sector to the capitalistic sector. Population growth, on the other hand, continiously adds to the pool of labor that must be absorbed.

capital, the surplus of labor may be transferred to the industrial sector and the substatence sector will no longer exist. Graphically, this can be shown as in Figure 3, on page 25, where labor (L) is shown on the invitable axis and capital (K) on the vertical axis. The line to state of economic development as described above is shown as the economy moves from point A to point B. The isoquants refer to output in the capitalistic sector, while L₁ is the limit of labor available. Factor prices are constant, as are the capital/labor ratios. Wages during this stage are determined for the whole economy by the average product of labor in the subsistence sector, and not by the marginal labor productivity in the capitalistic sector. Eventually, if the economy can obtain more and

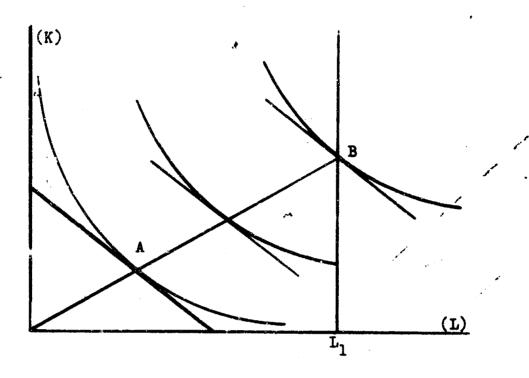


FIGURE 3
ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE BISECTOR MODEL

more capital, it will reach point B. The labor supply then becomes virtually inelastic and wages must be based on the parginal productivity of labor in the capitalistic sector. The economy will then have reached the self-sustaining stage, capable of making rapid economic growth.

In the Lewis model, capital accumulation and the state of technology determine the rate at which the betransferred to the industrial sector. If nonutation growth adds additional labor faster than capital and innovation permit its absorption, economic progress will be

limited.

The problem of acquiring more and more capital in order to move labor from the subsistence sector is complicated in underdeveloped countries by several factors. among which are: (1) entrepreneurs are typically poorly educated in any except local business practices and have neither the knowledge nor the inclination to expand beyond the point where they are capable of hiring more than a hariful of workers; (2) while it is true that in all backward countries there are a few extremely wealthy families engaged in major enterprises, they often prefer investments where a quick profit can be taken before the government can impose tax burdens, becoming in effect an unwelcome partner sharing the profits, but not the risk. businesses with considerable fixed assets are often subject to heavy licenses, pressure to financially support the political party in power, extensive governmental control, and so on. Investors capable of making long term investments are therefore reluctant to undertake them; (3) there is a greater tendency for the establishment of service concerns rather than more productive enterprises such as manufacturing. Not only is potential productivity reduced when this is done, but growth becomes seriously unbalanced; (4) underdeveloped countries erect nationalistic barriers to importing capital on terms that would

be acceptable to investors.

Samuelson aptly stated the problem of capital shortages in underdeveloped countries when he said,

The fingers and brains of men in the underdeveloped countries are much like the fingers and brains of their more prosperous brethen; but men in advanced nations work with a plentiful supply of capital goods built up over the years. /Italics not in the original/ To pile up net capital formation requires . . . a sacrifice of current consumption. But there's the rub: underdeveloped countries are already to poor as to be near the minimum of subsistence; they feel that they cannot — in fact, they do not — save a very large share of their current national incomes. 23

The criterion of success in the development efforts of an economy may be stated as the rate of industrial absorption in excess of the rate of population growth. In order to make an emirical test of this model, Ranis and Fei compared the rate of population growth for the industrial labor force with the overall rate of population growth for Japan over a time series from 1888 to 1930. 24 The results of their study indicated that the labor force in the industrial sector had grown at a faster rate than population growth over a period of many years. They concluded that the subsistence sector no longer existed, thus permitting rapid economic development.

²³P. A. Samuelson, Economics An Introductory Analysis (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1964), p. 768.

²⁴G. Ranis and J. C. H. Fei, "Innovation, Capital Accumulation and Economic De alopment," American Economic Review, LIII (June, 1963), p 631.

CHAPTER III

THE STUDY

The study, first, was an effort to learn what meaningful relationships could be established between economic
variables and population variables using statistical data,

was concerned from United Nations publications.

Secondly, probably the more important part of the study
was concerned with comparing the rate of industrial absorption of the labor force to population growth for each
country studied.

Basis of selection of countries. Countries in Latin America differ in many ways, with some being vastly large in geographical size, some quite small. The current state of econo ic development differs widely, the size of population, the ethnic backgrounds also vary radically.

The primary consideration in making selections was the availability of economic data. While population statistics are commonly available, many countries do not accumulate sufficient economic data to permit empirical studies.

Some effort was made to select a variety in terms of geogrpahical size, population totals, and state

of economic development. Table I is given to indicate some of the characteristics of each country. It should be noted that the property common to each country is the rate of population increase, exceeding two percent per year in each case.

TABLE I SELECTED CHARACTERISTS OF COUNTRIES STUDIES

	Chile	Ecuador	Honduras	Paraguay
Geographical Area	286.4	104.5	59.2	157.0
Average Annual Rate of Population Growth 1953-62**	2.2%	3.2%	3.0%	2.5%
Total Population 1962 (mid-year)	8,029	4,581	1,950	1,863
Per Capita Gross National Bro- aduct 1962	422	188	194	173

^{*}Source: National Geographic Society, National Geographic Atlas of the World: (National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C., 1963). Given in thousands of square miles.

ton, D. C., 1963). Given in thousands of square miles. * Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook 1963 (United Nations, New York, 1964).

Source: Ibid. Given in thousands.

SSource: United Nations, Yearbook of National Accounts

1963 (United Nations, New York, 1964).

Relationship between economic and demographic variables. The time period selected for this part of the study ran from 1953 to 1962 for these reasons: (1) the most current information available was desired in order to make the study as meaningful as possible. Figures for 1962 are the latest available; (2) adjustments for inflation would have been very difficult for a longer period; (3) the last decade has been one of extremely rapid population growth and the desire to test this influence on economic progress was paramount.

The first demographic variable investigated was total population. While it is recognized that the determination of an optimal population for a given country is impossible under the current state of economic art, the following tests were made in hopes of reclizing some indication, however slight, of the present situation. Total population was correlated with gross national product, consumption, and gross domestic fixed capital formation data from each country. A population density for land now devoted to agriculture, plus land unused but consid-

l Computation for all correlations were made using a University of California at Los Angles correlation program -- BINED 6 -- on a Control Data 1604 Computer located California.

ered potentally productive, was computed for the countries under study. Several other countries throughout the world were included for comparison.

In order to study the effects of the population growth rate on per capita income, calculations were first made to determine the actual rate of growth. Yearly per capita gross national product was also computed along with the yearly percentage change in per capita product. The yearly changes were averaged to obtain one growth rate for the ten year period. Modest changes in yearly wopulation growth rates were then introduced through this same series of computations to demonstrate what per capita gross national product might have been, given lower birth rates.

To study changes in age composition, the percentage of population over fifteen years of age, but not yet
sixty-five for the 1950 census as compared with like
data from the 1960 census to see what shift, if any, in
the number of productive persons had taken place. Like

Rate of increase in population was computed using the following formula: $r = (\sqrt[4]{P_1/P_0} - 1) \times 100$, where $t = the number of years between <math>P_1$ and P_0 ; P_0 is the population at the start of the period and P_1 is the population at the end of the period. r = rate of population growth. This is the formula used by the United Nations in making population calculations.

MAN THE PARTY NAMED IN

computations were made for other selected countries throughout the world to provide comparisons. Definiton of productive persons as those fifteen years of age or older, but not over sixty-five, was made because United Nations data is arranged in this manner. Unfortunately, year to year data was not available to provide better trend indication.

All the second

Using the Lewis criterion of successful economic development efforts -- that of transferring labor from the relatively low productive agricultural sector to more productive employment in the capitalistic sector -- a study was made of Chile using University of Chicago data and also of Honduras employing United Nations data. (Data was not available for Ecuador or Paraguay.) United Nations data is not arranged to show the total number of industrially employed, but ratiles shows the number employed in the specific categories of mining, manufacturing, construction, and power production. These were added to obtain totals, then arranged as percentages of the total economically active population. Data from the University of Chicago was arranged to indicate the number employed in the same general categories listed above, also as percentages of the total enonomically active population.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Throughout this chapter the results obtained from the study of empirical data for the countries of Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, and Paraguay will be listed. Whenever possible, evaluations will then be made

Total population. Table II, on page 34, gives the results of correlations where the level of significance was .05 or less. The majority of correlation results obtained had to be rejected because the level of significance was so high as to warrant no confidence in them. These spaces have been left blank in Table II.

For Chile, Ecuador, and Honduras, it appears that gross national product and consumption have been significantly related to population. Two facts should be noted:

(1) Paraguay, for whom the level of significance on all correlations was so high as to warrant rejection had the lowest gross national product per capita (express in U. S. dollars) of the four countries; (2) Ecuador was the only country exhibiting a high correlation between population trends and capital formation trends. Whether a definite

Appendix A contains the correlation formula used as well as graphical plots of data for Honduras. The data used in the correlations for each country is also given.

TABLE II
CORRLEATIONS BETWEEN DEMOGRAPHIC
AND ECONOMIC DATA

Variables Correlated	Chile	Ecuador	Honduras	Paraguay
Population on Gross National Product	.93	1.00	•97	
Population on CConsumption	.94	•99	.91	
Population on Capital Formation	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	.93 、		
Yearly Popula- tion Growth on Capital Formation	-	·		
Yearly Population Growth on Gross National Product		·		

cause and effect relationship between demographic and economic variables can be established for the results seen seems doubtful, however.

Table III, on page 36, supplies the population density data of land used for agriculture, plus land presently unused but considered potentially productive. Although the population density for these countries is not as high as that in parts of Asia, it is high relative to many developed nations. Fast rates of population growth coupled with primary dependence on an agricultural economy indicates serious problems could be expected.

while the foregoing study was conducted to determine the influence of total population on economic variables, it appears that economic variables might themselves exert considerable influence not only on t tal population, but on other demographic variables as well if the matrix of variables with their complex inter-dependencies could be sorted out.

Rate of population growth. Tables IV, V, VI, and VII, on page 37 through 40, have been constructed to indicate the actual population growth rate for each country as well as the per capita gross national product per capita for each year during the period of the study. As

TABLE III

AGRICULT 'RAL LAND USED OR POTENTIALLY PRODUCTIVE (Nillions of Acres)

Country		Unused but ctentially productive	Total	Population per acre
Chile	31.1	0	31.1	.26
Mouador	1.9	9	1.9	•97
Honduras	7.7	.3.ì	20.8	.59
Paragu ay	3.8	0	3.8	.49
United States	1116.9	i ka sa di <u>a</u> e N	1151.9	.16
India	3~5.9	91.	-06.0	1.50
Japan	16.0	ũ	16.0	€.00
Mouroc	271.8	10 (1) (10 €) 10 € (10 €) (10 €)	295.6	.12

Sources: W. E soytinsky and E. S. Scytinsky, World Population and Production (New York: The Litety Certury Fund, 1953), pp. 472-493; United Rations, Denographic Yearbook 1963, Conited Rations, New York, 1984)

TABI IV

EFF'SCTS OF LOWER POPULATION GROWTH RATES ON PER CAPITA GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT IN CHILE

	With.Actual	ğ	owth Rate	With Constant 2% Growth	stant, 29	Growth	With Con	stant 1	With Constant 1.75% Growth
	Actual Popula	Per Capita CMP##	22000000000000000000000000000000000000	Adjusted Totel . Popula - tlong	Per Capite	Crossta fraction Canate GNP.	1.05 us tod 20 ts 1. For ulle-	Per-Carte	Oronth In Page Contta Conta
6	, c	596		•	626	1	6	lα	-
C)		635	•	0.400 400	639	•	(\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	4	
r)	u y	229			657	83	(C)	(1)	•
9	Ľ,	799	•	•	657	•	5.	~	•
95	0,	503			500		74	ᆏ	•
Q,	-	503		•	537	•	70	*	•
1958	7.898	610	60	7.00A	S. Fry	8,13	5,995	555	•
u) O	Ą,	683	L	60	543		5	ທ	•
S S	C.	600	٧.	72.0	540	0	62.	ഗ	
Ŝ	C)	543		ائم الا	558	•	ان •	~	•
35	C	. 672	4.	\$50	701	40.4	ີເ	711	5,13
	,								

1.33

661.8

1.16%

2. .7

0.46%

638.5

Average

TABLE V

EFFECT OF LOWER POPULATION GROWTH RATES ON PER CAPITA GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT IN ECHADOR

	With Actual	ર્ફ	owth Rate	With Constant		2% Growth	With Con	stant 1	Constant 1.75% Growth
Year	Actual Popula tion*	Per Capito	Growth fr Per Capita	Adjusted Totsl Popula-	7 9 9 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	Growth in Per Capita	Adjusted Totel Population	Per Cap1	Growth in Per Capita
1952	•	(A)	•		ູ່ຮຸງ	? • • • •	3.350	36	
1953	3.464	2376	1.71%	3.417	6073		3.409	2614	3.33%
1954		3		4.	U.	. 47		2573	5.49
1955	•	G V	•	u)	u.	•	•	250Q	0.91
1956		8	6	£,	ч.		-	2596	0.50
1957		n.	•	رن	A.		•	2725	
1958	, ÇĀ	50			~		•	2758	(N)
1959	4.191	3	1.34	α	~	2.61	•	2837	1 de 1 de 1
1050	.31	53		O.	O,		•	2950	
1961	C)	55	•	Ç	σ		•	2984	
1962	23	54	3.56	Ç	ወ	1.54	3.981	3039	1 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Avera	36	2764.2	1.25%		2941.2	2,52%		3081.6	2.80%
at at	Figures gi	given in given in	mflllons. Sucres.						

TABLE VI

The second second second

EFFECTS OF LOWER POPULATION GROWTH RATES ON PER CAPITA GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT IN HONDURAS

	With Actual Grow		th Rate	With Cons	Constant 29	2% Growth	With Co	With Constant 1.75%	1.75% Growth
Year	Actual Popula- tion*	Per Capita GNP##	Growth in Per Capita GWP	Adjusted Total Popula-	Per Capita GNP**	Growth in Per Capita	Adjusted Total Popula-	Per Capite	Orowth in Per- Capita
1952	1.458	300		1.452	1		1.452	o	
1953	1.495	310	3.33%	1.481	313	4.33%	1.477	314	
1361	1.540	282	-9.92	1.511	268	8,68	1.503	289	
1955	1.586	284	0.70	1.541	293	1.74	1.529	295	22.28
1906	1.633	302	6.33	1.572	513	6.38	1.566	317	
1957	1.682	. 253	-19.36	1.603	328	4.79	1.583	332	
1958	1.733	211	12.29	1.635	329	05.0	1.611	33.6	
1959	1,785	314	96.0	1,668	336	0 0 0 0	1.639	22	
961	1.838	210	-1.29	1.701	335	0.30	1,668	25	
1961	1.893	315	0.64	1.735	345	2.99	1.697	348	1.76
1903	1.950	351	88	1.770	354	2,61	1.726	363	4.
Average	•	500.0	0.84 XX	1.	323.4	1.68%		327.6	2.01%
					to distante arramaging to	The state of the s	The Control of the Co		

Figures given in millions.

TABLE VII

EFFECTS OF LOWER POPULATION GROWTH RATES ON PER CAPITA GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT IN PARAGUAY

	With Actual Gr	al Growt	owth Rate	With Con	stant &	With Constant 2% Growth	With	ons tent	Constant 1.754 Growth
4	Actual	Per	Growth	Ajusted	100	Growth	Adjus ted		Growth
	Popula-	. Capita	in Per	Total	ref	in Per	Total	Per	for Per
	tion*	**dN	Capita Caro	Fopula-		Can	Popula-	Captte	Capita
1962	1.462	1025		3,459	300	AN F	tion.		GNP
1953	1.496	1016	% 000	1040E	TOKO L		1.462	1025	
1964	1.530	1010		1640T	1016	-0.59%	1.488	1051	-0.39
1955	1.565	2900	1000 1000 1000 1000	T20°T	OTOT	-0-30	1.514	1020	0
1966	1.613	007		T00-T	TOU	000	1.540	1085	_
1957	1-648	do		7.000	266	-8.57	1.567	1005	88.89
1958	7.687	90	# 6 # 6	#10°T	1004	1.51	1.594	1020	
055 P.		940	TA**	1.040	1020	1.29	1.622	1035	77
595	1 760		74°00	1.679	894	-14.09	1.650	_	
100	2007 L	000	-1.52	1.713	883	-1.25	1.679		
100	1004	000) O	1.747	988	0.34	1.708	906	
	7000	0	-0.82	1.782	881	0.11	1.738	606	
)
Average		947.2	-1.82%	T.	1,996	968.1 -1.56%	•	1083.4	1083.4 -1.304
					,			1	

* Figures given in millions. Figures given in Guaranies.

observed in Chapter III, population in each of these countries is considered to be growing extremely rapidly ith rates in excess of three percent for Ecuador, and in excess of two percent per year for each of the others. In order to demonstrate the effects of a lower rate of population growth on per capita gross national product, calculations were made for each country using a constant ... two percent growth and again using a constant one and threequarters percent growth rate. These results are also given. in Tables IV, V, VI, and VII. The advantages of reduced population growth rate can probably best be seen in the example of Ecuador. By reducing population growth rate from an average 3.2 percent to a constant two percent, average per capita gross national product increased from 2764.2 to 2941.2 Sucres, or an increase of 6.4 percent. Similiar increases exist for the other countries. and Hoover have estimated that a fifty percent linear reduction for three decades would provide an income thirtyeight to fifty percent higher than would occur with a

²See Table I, page 29.

The calculations are correct if the commonly made assumption is accepted that decrease in population growth rates does not negatively affect gross national product. It should also be noted that this hypothesis is applicable only to underdeveloped countries. The implications of population trends in highly industrialized countries are quite different.

sustained growth rate; in fifty years, they estimate, income would double. 4

It seems clear that with lower growth rates in population, non-productive investments which must be made to public facilities to meet the demands of an expanding population could be devoted to productive capitalization and thus raise per capita income even higher. This in turn would probably occasion higher rates of saving and investment.

fewer dependent, non-productive persons would burden the economy, hence reduction in consumption to the benefit of savings would be realized.

Composition of population. Population by age composition is important in a country as it influences the ratio of dependent persons to productive persons. Hence, study was made of this ratio for each of the four countries. The percentages of each population fifteen years or older, but less than sixty-five was computed for the 1950 census and again for the 1960 census to incidence the trend in each country. As seen in Table VIII, page 43, the ratio has changed adversely

⁴Coale and Hoover, op. cit., p. 334.

TABLE VIII

NCW-PRODUCTIVE POPULATION RATIOS (In millions)

Country	Total 1950 No. Under Population 14 plus	14 plus	Total 1960 Population	No. Under 14 plus	1950	1960
Ch11e ^p	5.933	2.209	7.375	2,934	37.9	Fatio
Beladorby	3.202	1.369	4.515	2.037	40.7	7.7
Honduras#	1.358	.556	1.866	.897	40.6	
Peraguay	1.328	.581	1.768	ග. න	43.7	*
United States	150.697	40.483	179.323	55.786	8,4%	
India*#	355.799	133.622	£38.271	180.070	5.75 4.75	7.75
Japan	83,199	31.427	4 93.347	28.024		1 · 1 · 6

Demographic Yearbook (New York; United Nations census data given, given. data vice 1950 census data 1950 census census

for each of the four countries. The ratio of dependent to productive persons in the Latin American countries shown is substantially higher in some cases than Asian countries and much higher than the ratio in the United States, with no prospects for improvement as long as the rapid rates of population growth continue. It should be noted that the statistics hide the fact that, because many members of the labor force in the United States (and other industrially advanced nations) do not actually enter the labor force until after they are twenty years old, the ratios are not as adverse as they appear on the surface.

Lewis developmental model. Assuming the Lewis developmental model to be correct (an economy in order to progress must shift workers from the relatively unproductive agricultural sector to the industrial sector where each worker has some capital to help him increase his output) study was made of the percentage increases of labor in the non-agricultural sector.

The results for Chile, as seen in Table IX, on page 45, indicate a lack of progress toward getting the industrial worker's wage based upon his marginal productivity.

TABLE IX

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION
ENGAGED IN NON-AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY IN CHILE

	Year	Perce age
	1907	62.3
;	1920	63.8
	1930	65 . ,
	1952	57.8
·	1957	6,`.9

Source: M. A. Ballesteros and T. E. Davis, "The Growth of Output and Employment in Basic Sectors of the Chilean Economy, 1907-1957," Economic Development and Cultural Change, XI (January, 1963), p. 176.

TABLE X

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION ENGAGED IN NON-AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY IN HONDURAS

• .	Year	•	Percentage	
	1940		48.6	
	1950		52.9	
	1953		51.6	• •
	1956		50.1	•
ej l	1960	•	51.7	

Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook (United Nations; New York)

Summary of conclusions. One of the chief difficulties in the study of Latin America is the lack of reliable data about economic performance, and to a lesser extent, lack of sufficient population data. While the tools used in economic analysis are often not as good as those desired, their usefulness here is impaired by lack of reliable data.

as to whether the four countries have yet passed or even reached their optimum total population. Moreover, it is felt that certain dangers lie in the employment of comparative statics which optimum population theory requires. In this era of rapid change, technical or other innovation may make today's theoretically optimal population not optimal tomorrow, or the reverse, and the further into the future theories project, the greater the risk of error.

For the reasons indicated above, it is felt that attempts to determine relationships between demographic and economic variables through correlation analysis must proceed carefully if accentable results are to be alphieved. It is quite possible that relationships might be bi-directional, that economic variables will influence demographic variables at the same time demographic variables.

difficult to establish generally acceptable interpretation of results through economic theory.

The rate of population growth in much of Latin

America is one which if continued will double the population every thirty years. This fact places great strain on the economic systems of these countries as they struggle to improve or even maintain their per capita incomes, which are already so low as to result in widespread poverty.

If the assumption is accepted that negative effects on gross rational product do not occur with reductions in population growth rates, it has been seen that modest reductions in growth rate can directly affect per capita income substantially.

High rates of population growth also affect the new composition of the population. Greater numbers are raded to the body of unproductive workers which adversely affects the ratio of productive to non-productive persons. In this respect, the ratios in Latin America are treading adversely at present while the prospect of improvement appears hopeless with the continuing high rate of hirths.

The results seen from application of the Lewis model indicate lack of progress in moving the labor force from agriculture to more productive employment.

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APPENDIX A CORRELATION APPENDIX

As stated in footnote 1, on page 30, all correlations were made us g a University of California at Los Angles correlation program -- BIMED 6 -- on a Control Data 1604 Computer. The mathematical formula used in this program is given as:

$$r_{i,j} = \frac{\sum (x_i - \overline{x}_i) (-\overline{x}_j)}{\sqrt{\sum (x_i - \overline{x}_i)^2} \sqrt{\sum (x_j - \overline{x}_j)^2}}$$

where rij is the correlation coefficient.

Tests of significance were then made using t values (also supplied by the same program) which had been computed using "Student's" t distribution. Levels of significance were determined by entering a table of Percentile Values of "Student's" t istribution.

Figures 4 and 5, on pages 51, and 52, are plots of the data correlated for the country of Honduras.

Tables XI through XIV, on pages 53 to 56, contain the basic data that was used for correlation.

¹M. R. Spiegel, <u>Schaum's Outline of Theory and Problems of Statistics</u> (New York: Schaum Publishing Co., 1961), p. 344.

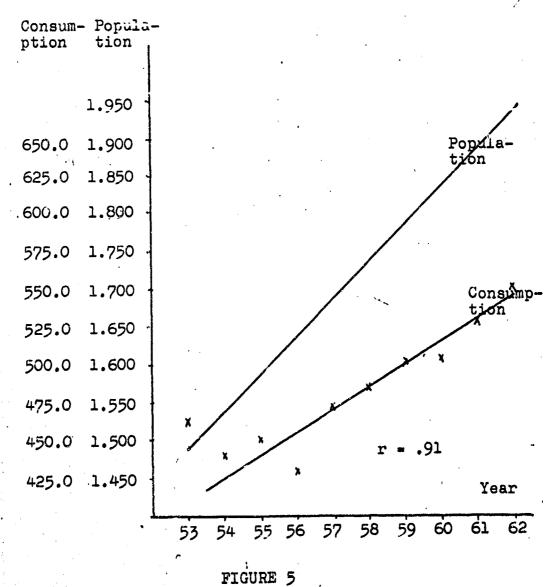


FIGURE 5
PLOT OF POPULATION AND CONSUMPTION FOR HONDURAS

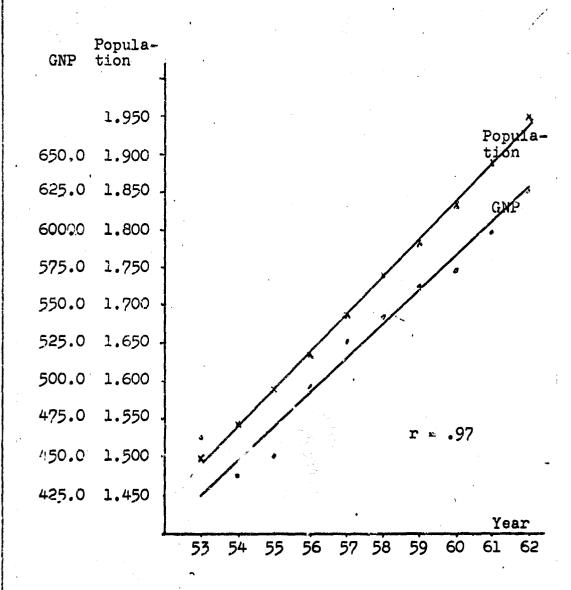


FIGURE 4
PLOT OF POPULATION AND GNP FOR HONDURAS

TABLE XI

SELECTED DATA FOR CHILE

Year	Expendi ures	10	Gross Domestic		Percentage
\$3.5 \$3.5	in GilP"	Consumption*	Formation*	""Ilorı arndo.	Growth
1952	3944.0	3341.2	•	6.295	心間 (2)
1953	4103.1	3535, 5	426.8	6.437	
1954	4305.1	3891.3	420.2	6, 597	
1955	4452.6	3913.0	485.6	6,761	
1956	4147.1	3675.4	-	6-944	
1957	4429.9	4049.5	472.8	7,121	
1958	4656,,6	4181.5		7.238	
1959	4686.8	4136.2	461.4	7.447	2, 457
1960	4781.0	4342.0		7.637	
1961	5023.0	4422.0	430.1	7,825	
1962	5380.0	4577.0	451.7	8,009	2, 356

Source: United Nations, Yearbook of National Account Statistics 1960, 1963. In million Bscudos adjusted to 1960 market price.
Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook 1963. Midyear estimate given.

TABLE XII

SKIECTED DATA FOR ECUADOR

Yoar	Expenditures on GNP*	Government and Private Consumption*	Gross Domestic Fixed Capital	Population**	Percentage Population
1952	7944	6639	75.2	\$ 1.0 m	Growth
1953	8232	7283	300	0000	!
1954 1954	8940	7650	7101	6.404 404	S.40%
1955	9165	7870	*****	7.00.0	2.973
1956	0444	200	ZTOT L	3.691	3.467
1957	0040	0660	7025	3.800	2,953
1958	10249	1200	1335	3,929	3. 394
1959	10725	0000	CON	4.049	3.054
1960	11:885	7133	1473	4.181	3.260
1961	226	1430	1547	4.317	3,252
1962	90081	10240 10550	1012	4.455	3,1%
		7000	1753	4.591	2,828

Source: United Nations, Yearbook of National Account Statistics 1960, 1965. In million Sucres adjusted to 1950 market price.

TABLE XIII

SELECTED DATA FOR HONDURAS

Year	Expenditures on CNP	Jovernment and Private Consumption*	Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation*	Population**	Percentage Population Growth
1952	435.9	435.9	73.3	1.452	
1962	464.3	464.3	81.5	1.495	2,961
1964	434.8	434.8 ·	60.1	1.540	3.010
1965	451.9	451.9	65.4	1.586	2.987
1956	493.4	430.8	66.5	1.633	2,963
1957	526.3	475.9	73.6	1.682	3,000
1958	539.1	483.1	66.3	1.733	3.032
1959	. 560.8	492.7	63.8	1.785	3.000
. 0961	570.6	506.8	64.69	1.838	2,969
1961	591.1	529.7	62.6	1.893	2,992
1962	626.7	551.6	81.2	1.950	5.011

Source: United Nations, Yearbook of National Account Statistics 1960, 1963. In million Lempiras adjusted to 1948 market price. Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook 1963. Midyear population estimate.

TABLE XIV

SELECTED DATA FOR PARAGUAY

				6	
Year	Expenditures on GNP*	Government and Private Con numption*	Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation*	Population**	Percentage Population Growth
1962	15000		•	1.462	
1953	15200	• •	•	1.496	2.325
1981	15455	14360	1253	1.530	2.272
1955	16704	0209	1301	1,565	2,287
1956	15694	4029	1266	1.613	3.067
1957	16252	16070	1472	1.648	2,169
1953	16787	16028	2192	1,687	2.366
1969	15015	14412	1190	1.728	2,430
1960	15118	14732	1457	1.768	2.314
1961	15497	14340	1272	1.812	2.488
1968	15801	14635	1891	1,863	2.814

.963. Midyear population estimate.

Account Statistics 1960, 1963.

Source: United Nations, Yearbook of National In million Guaranies adjusted to 1956 market Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook